

Remarks

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicants' "admitted prior art" ("APA") in view of U.S. Patent 5,48,734 to Hrabik et al. ("Hrabik") (paper no. 7, page 2). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As previously noted, claims 1-14 are directed to a method, apparatus or program storage device in which a first reader process (202) issues a read function call to an operating system (208) specifying a named pipe (104) to attempt to read data from the pipe (step 404). If there was no data to be read from the pipe (step 406), the first reader process issues an activate-on-receipt function call to the operating system specifying a new reader process (206) to be activated upon the receipt of data by the named pipe (step 408), then terminates (step 410).

Similarly, claims 15-19 are directed to a method, apparatus or program storage device in which an operating system receives an activate-on receipt function call from a first reader process specifying a new reader process to be activated upon the receipt of data by a named pipe (step 602), then activates the new reader process in response to the activate-on-receipt function call upon the receipt of data by the named pipe (steps 606-612).

Hrabik discloses a system 200 (Fig. 2) in which a RECEIVE module creates a named pipe (step 320), then suspends execution while awaiting a message (step 330). The RECEIVE module has its execution resumed upon the later appearance of a message in the named pipe to read the message from the pipe (step 340). This, however, is essentially the blocking mode of operation described in the background portion of applicants' specification and does not represent any fundamentally different art. In either case, the reader process merely suspends execution and continues to consume system resources.

Thus, Hrabik does not teach having a first reader process specify a new reader process to be activated upon the receipt of data by a named pipe, nor does Hrabik teach then having the first reader process terminate, both as recited in claims 1-14. Likewise, Hrabik does not teach activating a new reader process upon the receipt of data by a named pipe in response to a function

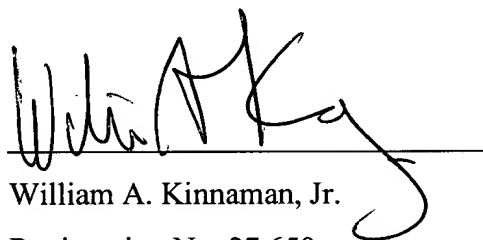
call from a first reader process, as recited in claims 15-19. Rather, Hrabik reactivates the same reader process, which is suspended rather than terminated.

Therefore, Hrabik fails to teach the subject matter of applicants' claimed invention, either singly or in combination with applicants' "admitted prior art". Accordingly, claims 1-19 as previously presented are believed to distinguish over the art cited by the Examiner. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the application as amended and, upon such consideration, hold all claims allowable and pass the case to issue at an early date. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

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